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8. RANGE EXTENSION OF ORANGE-BREASTED GREEN-PIGEON *TRERON BICINCTUS* (JERDON 1840) – FIRST RECORD FROM MAHARASHTRA, INDIA

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The distribution of the Orange-breasted Green-Pigeon *Treron bicinctus* in the Indian subcontinent is the lower Himalaya from the Uttar Pradesh *terai* and Nepal to Arunachal Pradesh and Bangladesh, Eastern Ghats, southern Western Ghats south of Goa and Belgaum, and Sri Lanka. It has also been recently reported from Sriharikota Island, Nellore district, Andhra Pradesh (Manakadan *et al.* 2009, 2011). There have been no records of the species in Maharashtra (Prasad 2003) and in northern Western Ghats (Ali 2002; Grimmett *et al.* 2011; Kazmierczak 2000; Manakadan *et al.* 2011). In this note we report occurrence of the Orange-breasted Green-Pigeon in the northern Western Ghats in Kolhapur, which is the first record of the species in Maharashtra

On February 12, 2012, at 06:00 hrs, we were on the way towards Tudiye and Mahalunge forest in Chandgad tehsil of Kolhapur district, Maharashtra for bird watching. We sighted a male Orange-breasted Green-Pigeon *Treron bicinctus* on a treetop at the outskirts of Shinoli village (15° 52' N; 74° 22' E), about 120 km from Kolhapur town. Later it flew off to disappear into the nearby forest. Unfortunately, we did not have a camera, but the bird was identified using field guides of Kazmierczak (2000) and Grimmett *et al.* (2011). The nearest record of the species to our recorded site (Shinoli) is Belgaum, which is *c.* 200 km to its south. Shinoli and Belgaum are located at *c.* 750 m above msl and have moist mixed deciduous and semi-evergreen mixed forest habitat. Subsequent to our record for Maharashtra, the species was photographed by Milind Valawalkar in Valawal village of Sindhudurg district, Maharashtra on April 16, 2012 (http://www.indianaturewatch.net, accessed on May 12, 2012).

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9. NEST MATERIAL KLEPTOPARASITISM BY SMALL SUNBIRD *NECTARINIA MINIMA* (SYKES, 1832)

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The Small Sunbird (*Nectarinia minima* Sykes, 1832) is endemic to the Western Ghats (Ali and Ripley 1987). It makes a typical pouch-like nest like other sunbirds, but the nest is smaller and more globular and suspended towards the end of horizontal branches of a tree or shrub. The nest is composed of fine plant fibres, small twigs, mosses, cobwebs, lichens, and soft seed hairs (Ali and Ripley 1987; Ali 1999; Hume 1890). Its nesting behaviour was described by Nayar (1934), but he did not report of thieving of nest material by the species and stated that only fresh material was used for nest construction. This note discusses the nest material piracy by a Small Sunbird from an active nest of Oriental White-eye *Zosterops palpebrosus* observed from the Silent Valley National Park (11° 04' – 11° 13' N; 76° 24' – 76° 29' E) in Kerala, India.

On February 23, 2010, at 14:26 hrs, a female Small Sunbird was found collecting the soft hair (pappus) of the seeds of *Asclepias curassavica* (Asclepiadaceae) growing in front of a camp shed in Silent Valley. In her third trip, she was accompanied by the male, but he did not collect nest material. The nest was located in a 2 m *Lantana* shrub towards a cliff. At about 16:10 hrs, she flew into the canopy of a 3 m *Glochidion* tree, *c.* 42 m from the nest. After a while, it came out from the canopy with a bunch of soft white hair in her beak. A close observation in the canopy showed a small cup-shaped nest placed on a forked branch. There was no bird in that nest and the sunbird must have taken the material from this nest as no such material was found in the canopy. After this incident, the bird continued to collect pappus from the plant for three times. Later, she again flew into the canopy of the tree but returned without carrying any nest material, and appeared anxious, probably since the nest was now occupied by an Oriental White-eye.

On the second day, I recorded her collecting pappus hairs 16 times and stealing nest material in 19 instances. In the second and ninth attempts, she was chased by the Oriental White-eye. After being chased off, she did not try stealing for the next one or more hours. On the third day, she stole lining material 12 times from 09:05–12:10 hrs. During this time, she collected pappus only three times. On a check in the evening, it was found that the nest was occupied by the White-eye. However, the next day, it appeared that the White-eye had abandoned its nest as it was severely damaged.

Nest material piracy is not uncommon in birds (see Ley *et al.* 1997; Narwade *et al.* 2005). Some of the reasons for nest material thieving are for saving time and energy in finding and transporting nest materials, low availability of suitable nest material and increased use of the same nest material by conspecifics and other birds in the nesting locality and decreased predation risk while collecting material from far off places (Jones *et al.* 2007; Ley *et al.* 1997). Nest failure and transfer of nest parasites may be some of the major disadvantages of species affected by nest material kleptoparasitism (Ley *et al.* 1997; VanderWerf 1988). In this reported case, the White-eye may have abandoned the nest due to the damage caused by the sunbird.

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